THE MIGHTY MIDGETS

by SID FAIRS

Last season the Illawarra District Schoolboys' Soccer Council made a progressive move when it introduced an Under 10 competition.

It was an experiment which proved an immediate success due in no small measure to the enthusiasm of the team managers and coaches.

The little fellows soon became the glamour boys of the Illawarra competitions, and the number of spectators viewing their games at 9 o'clock on Saturday morning often exceeded the crowds attending district first and second grade matches.

This season the number of entries was so great that the competition was run in North and South divisions.

Today, as an early fixture, we present the divisional winners, Woonona and Fernhill, in a special challenge match.

Both were undefeated in their competitions but Woonona won the final 2-0 two weeks ago. This was Fernhill's first defeat of the season and only the second time its forwards had failed to score in a match. The teams met on two other occasions during the season. Fernhill was successful at the annual Gala Day, winning on throw ins, and scored a one goal victory in the Under 10 knockout competition.

Naturally most of the youngsters are playing their first season of competitive football. In Fernhill team only three had previously played — some of the boys are only 8 years of age.

During the season Fernhill scored 105 with only 7 against. Peter Beattie and Graham Wilson notched 39 each and Bill Edwards 16.

Woonona scored approximately 70 with 5 against (none against in comp. matches). Dennis Patterson scored 30, Cecil Sharpley 20, and Peter McGoldrick 15.

Editor's Address:—

29 Crieff Street, Ashbury, N.S.W.

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AUSTRALIAN SOCCER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

◆

5th TEST

AUSTRALIA

Versus

SOUTH AFRICA

NEWCASTLE SPORTS GROUND

Saturday, 1st October, 1955

3 P.M.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME **PRICE 1/-**

SOUTH COAST

versus

SOUTH AFRICA

WOLLONGONG SHOW GROUND

SUNDAY, 2nd OCTOBER, 1955

"NORTH'S GRAND OLD MAN OF SOCCER"

By "Nobbys"

One of the most respected Soccer enthusiasts in the North is George Plummer of Whitebridge, near Newcastle — a life member of the N.S.W. Soccer Association. Two days ago, George celebrated his 84th birthday.

George is known right throughout the Soccer sphere as the donor of the famous Plummer Cup, which is perhaps the most artistic cup in all Australian footballdom.

An Englishman by birth, George has played and followed the round ball for over 70 years. George was born in Findon Hill, near Sacarsen, in the County of Durham.

After an early education at the Tanfield School, George entered the mining industry. He was associated with the Tanfield Lea Colliery for many years and rose from the humble job of greaser to that of chief foreman and acting-undermanger.

At the age of nine years George first played goalkeeper for New Charleston Board School in Yorkshire. He played goalkeeper after leaving school for Sacarcen Club till he was 30 years of age.

Besides Soccer, he became a county champion with the rifle. As a member of the Sacarcen Rifle Club he won the championship trophy. At Oakley Spring Range he won the famous Oakley clock in 1902.

In the First World War George served with the 4th Durham Regiment and fought in the early battles on the fields of Northern France. George served as instructor for the divisional mining company in underground tunnelling.

Wrestling was also one of his famous pastimes. His father was a master of the Cumberland style of wrestling. George won the divisional championship for wrestling. He also won many amateur honours at boxing.

When peace came in 1919, George returned to Ferry Hill Colliery as fore-overman.

Owing to the illness of his wife, George came to Australia in 1922 and settled at Newcastle, but later accepted a colliery appointment at Aberdare Central, near Cessnock. However, he returned to Dudley, where he is now known far and wide for his work as a masseur.

During the past ten years, after he retired from Burwood Colliery, he has earned the titles of "Wizard of Oz" and "Mandrake" for his work in mending the ills of footballers. His many cures have helped many of the star players to continue their careers.

To-day, he will be among the crowd at Newcastle Sports Ground watching the gifted South Africans play Australia in the 5th Test.

NEWS FROM OVERSEAS

by L. A. W. PEARCE

The Semi-Finals of the Scottish League Cup will be played to-day (Saturday). The four left in are Aberdeen, Rangers, St. Mirren and Motherwell, the latter having beaten St. Johnstone in the replay. I do not know the draw.

"News of the World", September 18, contains some interesting notes by John Reason in relation to the deep centre-forward plan. This is what he said: "Don Revie certainly started something. Since Manchester City made such a success of the plan last season, several clubs have tried it out. Arsenal adopted a compromise scheme, with Don Roper doing the midfield scheming fairly close to the rest of his forwards. Other teams experimented with varying results.

"Arsenal discovered that the man in the middle of the plan has to have very specialised ability. Even then, the new style has to suit all the other players. Arsenal hadn't the men for the job, and it failed.

"Then Tottenham had a go, with Eddie Bailey as the key man, but they found that accurate ball distribution was not the only qualification needed for the Revie style of football.

"The key man has to be a young, strong player. He must be capable of being right in the game, controlling it for 90 minutes—in all conditions—over a season lasting eight months.

"I have seen another club abandon the idea after a few weeks of hopeful experiment. But I have also seen a team who have found modest success and plan to continue with this idea. First, the team who are beginning to make the scheme work. Look down the Third Division South and you will see that Aldershot are in an unusually comfortable position. They owe their position to the deep centre-forward game. Maybe Len Gaynor does not seem strong enough for the exacting centre-forward job—particularly when the heavy grounds come along. Maybe the goal-raiding inside forwards, Norman Menzies and Denis Cheney, lying well upfield have not yet completely mastered the art of running for Gaynor's through-passes at the vital moment. However, as Manager Harry Evans said, 'We are getting better every week. We can only hope that the finer points will come with practice'. Meanwhile, the scheme has taken Aldershot high up in the table. And it was good enough to topple the 100 per cent. record of Northampton —the only one in the Football League.

"The club which has abandoned the deep centre-forward plan is Newport. 'It was wonderful in midfield, but it just wasn't bringing us goals,' said Manager Billy Luces. 'So we dropped it.'

"Ted Bates, the new manager of Southampton, has his goal-keeper, John Christie, using the short throw whenever possible. Unfortunately a section of the Southampton crowd still think it clever for a goal-keeper to give the ball straight to the other side with a big boot upfield. Consequently, there are howls of protest every time Christie throws it to a team mate. Perhaps there is disappointment that a club as well appointed as Southampton have not gained promotion to the Second Division. And as they have started the season badly, some people vent their disappointment in criticism of what is perfectly safe, constructive football.

"Yes, Ted Bates has a tough job at Southampton. But he knows it and is quite cheerful about it."

A FEW OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN PARTY

M. Rufus

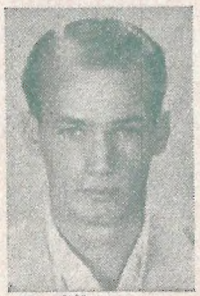
Mr. J. Kennedy
South African
Manager

D. Le Roux

I. Palmer

E. Peterson

Mr. A. Murray,
South African
Asst. Manager.



B. Gibson

Mr. P. Salter,
Trainer.

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PROMOTION AND RELEGATION
WOULD IT HELP?

At a meeting of Southern State Premiership Clubs, held in Sydney recently, many phases of State Soccer football were discussed.

Clubs favoured an increase in the number of teams of the Southern Division, due, no doubt, to the fact that there are many good sides in the Southern League.

Most likely clubs to be promoted if an increase is approved are the New Australian sides, Prague and Sydney Austral, which were originally formed from Czechoslovakians and Hollanders respectively.

Another New Australian club which had pressed strongly for promotion was the Jewish team HAKOAH, but this club's persistent disregard for the rules of the Association does not make it a probable asset.

In the North, there is not the same possibilities, because there are few, if any, upcoming clubs which could be considered of the standard required for the big time.

And that big time just does not mean only a good team. It means a well-managed club with a good and accessible ground, and aptitude to improve Soccer in its area and a sincere desire to assist schoolboys and juniors, etc., etc.

Nevertheless, the formation of the Northern League in 1955 is a step in the right direction, for it could bring clubs such as Awaba, Bellbird, Blacksmiths and Courtaulds on, and eventually prepare them for the obligations of the State Premiership competition.

All of which leads us to the question of automatic Promotion and Relegation, which may not be seen in action for a year or two yet, but which seems definitely a necessity of the future.

Migrant peoples from Britain and other European lands are accustomed to the system in their own countries, and cannot understand why Australian authorities have not introduced it long ago.

However, they probably do not understand its ramifications so far as New South Wales conditions are concerned.

Let us suppose Promotion and Relegation was introduced in the North. Cessnock, as we all know, is a top class side, but top sides have their lean seasons too, and the day could come when Cessnock experiences that lean season and goes down. At this juncture it could, of course, happen also to Weston, and then we should find the Coalfields area without first-class Soccer. That would be a tragedy. And once a team is relegated to the 2nd division, the struggle to gain promotion is terrific. Some British clubs relegated 20 years ago have never won their way back.

Just keep in mind that the Coalfields area is the one in danger if Automatic Promotion and Regulation is introduced. That is, if it is introduced before teams such as Bellbird, Kearsley, etc., have come on sufficiently and their standard such that they could hold their own in State Soccer. Those teams must be ready to win promotion if Cessnock and/or Weston are ever relegated.

Then again, suppose Cessnock, Weston, Bellbird, Kearsley, say Aberdare, and possibly Neath, all reached the standard of First Grade Soccer. What would be the position of Soccer in the North? Would it mean that the much larger Newcastle area would be reduced to four teams?

There are other difficulties, too, such as long term leases of grounds. In most cases where a club has obtained a 5 to 10 years' lease, committeemen usually attest their names as guarantors of the rentals over the lease period. Say a club enters into a ten years' lease, and is then relegated after the first year of that lease, it cannot be denied the crowds will decrease greatly. The rent must still be paid, and it is those little committeemen who will be obliged to foot the bill.

Yes, the question of Automatic Promotion and Relegation is one to be studied at great length in this State, for conditions are altogether different to those which prevail in Britain or other countries.

If you are from one of those other overseas lands, probably you favour the system, because you have always been used to it. But before you strongly advocate its introduction in N.S.W., be sure you know of the difficulties to be encountered, and be sure you have the remedies to those difficulties. If you haven't, there are many good Soccer code judges who will blow your arguments sky high.

—— TO-DAY'S EARLY GAMES ——

11.30 A.M.

WESTERN PREMIERSHIP PLAY OFF

Under 10 Years

Cardiff No. 1 v. Wallsend No. 1

12.30 P.M.

SOUTHERN FINAL

Under 10 Years

East Lakes v. Swansea Pelican

1.15 P.M.

UNDER 18 YEARS — SEMI-FINAL

Wallsend No. 1 v. Wallsend No. 2

NEXT SUNDAY —— 9th OCTOBER, 1955

New South Wales v. A Continental XI

LAMBERT PARK, LEICHHARDT
3 P.M.

Teams For To-day's Game - 3 p.m. - 45 minutes each half

AUSTRALIA

(White)

Manager: Mr. W. McDonald (N.S.W.).

Coach: Mr. A. Henderson (Granville, N.S.W.)

Goal: W. HENDERSON (N.S.W.)

R.B.—(2): C. ALMOND (N.S.W.)

L.B.—(3): K. O'NEILL (N.S.W.)

R.H.—(4): J. PETTIGREW (N.S.W.)

C.H.—(5): C. WARREN (Q'land)

L.H.—(6): C. SANDER (Q'land)

I.R.—(8): W. PADDOCK (N.S.W.)

I.L.—(10): K. VAIRY (N.S.W.)

O.R.—(7): C. STEWART (N.S.W.)

C.F.—(9): A. GARSIDE (N.S.W.)

O.L.—(11): R. MARSHALL (N.S.W.)

Referee: Mr. G. Muir.

Linesmen: Mr. H. Lonsdale (Red Flag), Mr. K. Urwin (Yellow Flag)

O.L.—(11): L. POURIE

C.F.—(9): J. HUGHES

O.R.—(7): D. LE ROUX

I.L.—(10): E. PETERSON

I.R.—(8): H. PATON

L.H.—(6): C. JACQUES

C.H.—(5): R. OELOFSE

R.H.—(4): K. ZEISING

L.B.—(3): M. JACOBSON

R.B.—(2): G. FREW (Capt.)

Goal: A. VIENBOGAARDT

SOUTH AFRICA

(Green and Gold)

Manager: Mr. J. E. Kennedy
Asst. Manager: Mr. A. P. Murray
Trainer: Mr. P. Salter

Final teams will be announced over the public address system.

Reserves (South Africa):
I. PALMER
A. TYRELL
M. RUFUS
J. HASTIE

Reserves (Australia):
W. MAHONEY (N.S.W.)
W. WILLIAMS (N.S.W.)
A. JOHNS (N.S.W.)

AROUND THE GROUNDS

with "UNOMI"

Former Sunderland and Darlington player Billy Walsh, from England, is now resident in Sydney. He is going to play next season but so far has not made up his mind with what club.

Austrian Team Manager Max Gold wants to bring two teams here in May of next year. He says the two teams could play a series of tests against Australia and then meet each other in every capital city of Australia before going back. Two countries which he says might be interested are Italy and France.

It has been stated that Britain will not have a team entered for the Soccer Section of the Olympic Games in Australia. If that is so, I think it is a disgraceful decision, because Britain always enters a team when the games are held in a Foreign land.

I am told that Len Shackleton, that great player of Sundarland and England, recently wrote a book entitled the Len Shackleton Story. According to my informant, two pages were cut out of the publication (and are now blanks), because he severely criticised the Directors of his club.

One wit at the conclusion of the 4th Test last week suggested that if Australia could find a sponsor it should start a "FINDA-PLAYER" contest.

The Leichhardt v. Woonona cup semi-final last week commenced in brilliant sunshine. Half an hour from the end it started to rain and the game finished in a downpour. Most people raced for whatever shelter could be found, and many sat in their cars outside the ground waiting to hear the final score. But there was one old chap who stood in all the rain shielding the bowl of his pipe and puffing away contentedly. He got soaked through, but murmured: "Aye, lad, this be real football weather."

From what I have heard, it looks to me that most referees for the Olympic Games matches in 1956 will be of the imported variety.

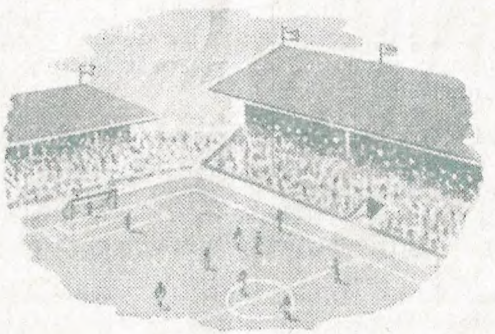
Soccer director Mr. Jim Henderson and North Shore coach Alf Jennings were seen in earnest conversation the other day. We don't know the nature of the conversation, but our guess is they were talking about the famous English club Tottenham Hotspur. You see, both of those gentlemen have played for the famous 'Spurs.

SOUTH COAST SUPPLEMENT

South Coast

Versus

South Africa



SUNDAY, 2nd OCTOBER, 1955

WOLLONGONG SHOW GROUND

3 p.m.

Pen Points of the South Coast Players

The Springboks today will meet one of the strongest provincial teams they have encountered on their Australian tour.

No less than nine internationals are included in the South Coast team and the half-back and forward lines are comprised of all internationals.

Brief pen pictures of the players are:—

ALAN BULLARD (27), goalkeeper, Woonona. The veteran of Woonona's young team. Came from the Canterbury district and is playing his fourth season with Woonona. A spectacular goalkeeper who gained his first representative honours for South Coast against South China this year.

BOB BIGNALL (33), right-back, Corrimal. Playing his 17th season of first-class football. Has captainel Corrimal, South Coast, N.S.W. and Australia. Played in 20 test matches against Yugoslavia, England, Eastern Athletic (Hong Kong), New Zealand, South China, Austrian Rapid and South Africa. One of the most versatile defenders in the country and is equally at home as half or full-back.

HARRY MURDOCH (29), left-back, Balgownie. Has been a regular choice for the South Coast left-back berth since 1953, when he played against the Chinese team. One of the speediest full-backs in the game and commenced his career as centre forward with Balgownie juniors.

ERIC DUFF (26), right half, Balgownie. Gained representative honours against the 1951 English team but has not found favour with Australian selectors since. Made a comeback to the game this season and, playing with Balgownie for the first time, won the "Herald" award for the best and fairest southern player.

BILL WILLIAMS (22), centre half, Woonona. Playing his fifth year with Woonona and this season gained selection in the Australian Test Team. Has represented N.S.W. and South Coast on numerous occasions, but played for the State before he gained selection in a South Coast team. Usually a wing half but played brilliantly at centre half against South China.

BOB YOUNG (27), left half, Corrimal. Played his first rep. game for South Coast at Wollongong Showground against the 1947 Springboks and subsequently was selected to tour South Africa in 1950. Was one of the stars of the tour but strangely has yet to play for Australia in Australia. One of the most consistent half-backs in N.S.W. club football.

CHARLIE STEWART (26), outside right, Woonona. Like Bob Young, played against the 1947 South Africans and has represented the South Coast against every touring team since. Represented N.S.W. at the age of 17 and won his Australian blazer against the Springboks.

PHIL PETERS, inside right, Corrimal. A former Cessnock star, he is playing his fourth season with Corrimal. He played for Australia but has yet to wear a N.S.W. jersey. Represented Northern Districts against the 1947 Springboks and England. Played for the South Coast for the first time against South China last July.

KEITH LEARMONTH (22), centre forward, Corrimal. Played his first rep. match for South Coast against England at the age of 17. This is claimed as a record. Originally an inside forward, is now firmly established as one of Australia's best centre forwards. Has gained every honour available to an Australian player.

TED DRAIN (29), inside left, Corrimal. Like Young and Stewart, has played against every touring team since 1947. Has the most powerful shot of any Australian inside forward. Gained a place in an Australian Test Team in 1947 but was discarded until this season. Commenced his State League career with Corrimal, gave many years' service to Woonona, and was transferred back to Corrimal last season.

RON BURNS (22), outside left, Corrimal. A former N.S.W. schoolboy representative. Having his first full season in the top grade and has played for South Coast, N.S.W. and Australia — a remarkable achievement for a player who was unable to hold his position in a club team last year. Leading goalscorer in N.S.W. club football this season.

RESERVES:

JIM BROWN (18), Corrimal. A young goalkeeper who has everything it takes to reach the top.

GEORGE WHEATLEY (26), Corrimal. One of the leading centre halves in N.S.W.

GEORGE BARLOW (22), Balgownie. Has turned in some great performances for his club at half back and inside forward.

BARRY SALISBURY (17), Woonona. One of the South Coast's really bright prospects. Playing his first season in State League and like Brown has all the attributes of a champion.

NEXT SUNDAY, 9th OCTOBER, 1955

WEST WALLSEND v. CORRIMAL or LEICH.-ANNANDALE

at

CRYSTAL PALACE, WALLSEND, at 2.30 p.m.

SUNDAY, 2nd OCTOBER, 1955

EARLY GAMES

— 12.30 P.M. —

UNDER 10 YEARS CHALLENGE MATCH

WOONONA
(Blue and Red)

G. G. HOLBY
1. K. FENTON
2. D. BARRIE
3. F. PHILLIS
4. J. MEADES
5. G. HAMILTON
6. A. LLOYD
7. P. McGOLDRICK
8. C. SHARPLEY
9. V. HEISLEY
10. D. PATTERSON

Manager: Mr. E. Love

FERNHILL
(Red with White V)

G. J. THOMPSON
1. I. MOORECROFT
2. R. SPERRING
3. R. PATRICK
4. K. BANKS
5. P. ORPHAN
6. W. EDWARDS
7. P. BEATTIE
8. G. WILSON
9. R. COVENTRY
10. C. MAKIN

Manager: Mr. J. Beattie

Referee: Mr. W. Ring.

Linesmen: Mr. W. Weller (Red Flag), Mr. J. Law (Yellow Flag).

— 1.30 P.M. —

UNDER 16 YEARS CHALLENGE MATCH

ILLAWARRA
(Blue and White)

G. R. WILSON (Fernhill)
1. J. WIGGINS (Corrimal)
2. K. ENGLISH (Woonona)
3. D. BRADFORD (Tarrawanna)
4. S. WARD (Woonona)
5. R. CAMPBELL (Corrimal)
6. B. TABER (Fernhill)
7. N. RYAN (Corrimal)
8. W. APPO (Fernhill)
9. N. TOLHURST (H'burgh)
10. B. DALEY (Corrimal)

Manager: Mr. S. Ward

GRANVILLE
(Black and White)

G. M. TRISIC (Granville Waratah)
1. N. TAYLOR (G'ville Waratah)
2. I. HARRIS (Auburn)
3. W. McGILLIVRAY (G'ville W.)
4. L. ADAMSON (G'ville Wara.)
5. B. STRONG (Auburn)
6. K. MORRIS (Lansvale)
7. J. PITTIONI (G'ville Waratah)
8. B. WALKER (G'ville Waratah)
9. E. BROUGHTON (Lansvale)
10. W. McDOWELL (G'ville Wara.)

Manager: Mr. L. Walker

Referee: Mr. J. Newton.

Linesmen: Mr. J. Simpson (Red Flag), Mr. D. Meredith (Yellow Flag).

3 p.m.

SOUTH COAST

(Red and White)

G. A. BULLARD (Woonona)
2. R. BIGNALL (Corrimal) Capt.
3. H. MURDOCH (Balgownie)
4. E. DUFF (Balgownie)
5. W. WILLIAMS (Woonona)
6. R. YOUNG (Corrimal)
7. C. STEWART (Woonona)
8. P. PETERS (Corrimal)
9. K. LEARMONTH (Corrimal)
10. E. DRAIN (Corrimal)
11. R. BURNS (Corrimal)

Reserves: J. Brown (Corrimal), G. Wheatley (Corrimal), G. Barlow (Balgownie), B. Salisbury (Woonona).

Manager: Mr. J. Lattimer (Balgownie)

Coach: Mr. D. Harrington (Corrimal)

Trainer: Mr. G. Kerr (Corrimal)

Referee: Mr. G. Richardson

Linesmen: Mr. J. Vickery (Red Flag), Mr. J. Parker (Yellow Flag)

SOUTH AFRICA

(Green and Gold)

A. UYTENBOGAARDT	J. HASTIE RB	H. PATON IR
A. TYRELL goal	I. PALMER	D. Le ROUX OR
G. FREW (Capt.)	K. ZEISING RH	P. HUGHES CF
M. JACOBSON LB	R. OELOFSE CH	E. PETERSON IL
M. RUFUS	C. JACQUES LH	L. FOURIE OL

Manager: Mr. J. E. Kennedy

Asst. Manager.: Mr. A. P. Murray

Trainer: Mr. P. Salter

(Selection of final eleven will be announced over the Public Address System)